

Virginia Emergency Operations Center
Hurricane Katrina Impacts
Situation Report #13

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 12, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 13, 2005

SITUATION:

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited State of Emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor requested a Presidential disaster declaration on September 6, 2005 to assist with Virginia's relief effort.

FEMA approved Governor Warner's request for an Emergency Declaration on September 10, 2005. The incident period will begin on August 29, 2005 authorizing 100% federal funding for Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures). The assistance is for all 95 counties and 40 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from Louisiana. The American Red Cross is providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

Governor Warner has directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a shelter and recovery assistance center for people relocated to Virginia by FEMA. The reception center has been established at Fort Pickett near Blackstone and is known as "Town Pickett". The facility can house up to 1000 people at a time and will be supplemented by facilities at the nearby Blackstone United Methodist Center. The American Red Cross will manage the shelter with assistance from several state agencies. The recovery assistance center, set up in separate buildings near the shelters, will provide evacuees the opportunity to talk with representatives from several state and federal service programs. In addition to the FEMA disaster assistance services, the center's staff can help with housing, Medicaid, Social Security, unemployment assistance and employment referrals, Veterans Affairs, legal or tax concerns and crisis counseling. Evacuee admittance to the shelter and recovery assistance center has been temporarily suspended due to the threat of Tropical Storm Ophelia.

Virginia continues to monitor fuel supply around the Commonwealth.

WEATHER:

The current weather in Virginia is forecasted clear with temperature around 90 during the day with a 20% chance of precipitation after midnight. The VEOC is monitoring Tropical Storm Ophelia closely for potential wind and rainfall impacts on Virginia 9/13 – 9/15.

VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:

- The VEOC is currently in Response Operations for Hurricane Katrina. In consideration of Tropical Storm Ophelia the VEOC went to Hurricane Readiness Condition 2 as of 1300 hours on September 12th. See Tropical Storm Ophelia Situation Report #2.

ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:

- **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) /VEOC**
 - Augmented with additional staffing from DFP, VSP, DHRM, and DHS/FEMA.

- Coordinating 67 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Posting EMAC requests for State and/or local agency response on EOC on-line.
- Currently supporting 4 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 3 in Mississippi.
- Six Community Relations Reservists personnel arrived in Jackson, Mississippi.
- Awaiting responses from requesting states to 37 proposals to respond on EMAC missions.
- Staffing an Evacuee Reception Center/Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fort Pickett. (Referred to as Town Pickett)
- **Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME)**
 - EPA extended the Richmond RFG waiver effective through midnight of September 23.
 - No widespread fuel shortage in the state, continuing to monitor fuel supply closely.
- **Department of Forestry (DOF)**
 - Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agencies 6 Regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and support.
 - One person is assisting the State of Mississippi to prepare a pre-suppression wildfire plan to address the added wildfire danger posed by the hurricane debris.
 - Total of 64 personnel are deployed to assist with Katrina relief.
 - The 20-person crew coordinating food and water distribution near Hammond, LA will be completing their assignment today and awaiting further instructions.
 - A 20-person crew is providing emergency related community assistance in the Town of Ocean Springs, MS.
 - Six 3-person chainsaw crews (18 people total) are clearing roads near Laurel, MS.
 - 5 personnel have been deployed in single resource positions on Type 1 IMT's in Meridian, MS and Baton Rouge, LA.
 - 1 person is serving as an Equipment Manager over rental/leased recovery equipment out of Houston, TX.
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
 - Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) – 35 personnel deployed to Biloxi, Mississippi. An additional 10 personnel deployed to various affected areas.
 - Fielding offers of assistance for evacuee support from hospitals and long-term care facilities.
 - Assisting local health departments in providing immunizations for authorized deployers and local evacuee populations.
 - Continue to organize Public Health teams to standby for deployment.
 - Established VDH Towne Pickett Response Team with the capability for shelter health and medical support operations.
 - Two Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel deployed on September 9 in support of DMORT operations.
 - Local Health Districts coordinating with partner agencies in support of self-deployed and private source assisted evacuees.

- VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas on September 8th in support of FEMA.
- Medical Reserve Corps. – Collectively, 44 MRC volunteers in-state and 20 volunteers out-of-state supporting various missions.
- **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**
 - Presently there are 405 National Guardsman deployed to the Gulf area.
 - 68 members of the 222nd Quarter Master Unit and Air Guard's 203rd Red Horse Unit were deployed on September 9th to provide potable water service in the French Quarter in New Orleans.
 - 112 National Guardsman arrived on September 5th to provide military police service in the Lake Charles area.
 - 225 National Guard personnel are conducting security and relief operations in Gulfport, Mississippi under the operational control of the 38th Infantry Division (EMAC).
 - Field Headquarters VA Joint Operations Center (JOC) developing future capabilities support packages and continues planning for potential future security operations.
 - Supporting efforts at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia State Police (VSP)**
 - Preparing Law Enforcement personnel for possible deployment.
 - Making plans to formulate a 2nd tactical field force.
 - Supporting perimeter security at Fort Pickett.
- **Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)**
 - Developing an implementation plan for remaining communications needs.
 - Cell towers being installed to address spotty cellular coverage at Fort Pickett.
- **Department of Education (DOE)**
 - Delivered laptops to supply classrooms at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)**
 - Staffing and logistics is set-up for processing evacuees for service intake and benefit programs upon arrival at Fort Pickett.
 - 224 State and Local Social Services employees are in a database to serve either one-week in Virginia or two weeks in the impacted region if called upon.
 - Directing local offices to refer evacuees to local chapter of American Red Cross (ARC) and provide FEMA teleregistration number. After screening by ARC, DSS will process evacuees into appropriate program.
 - DSS provided guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees.
 - DSS Hotline – 1-800-777-8293 – For Faith Based Groups to offer temporary housing for evacuees. 161 organizations are in the database.
- **Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)**
 - Providing 3 staff members to assist with EMAC.
 - Providing 1 staff member to assist with Legislative Affairs.
- **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**
 - Continue to track consumer reports of alleged gasoline price gouging and half-pricing through its Hotline number: 1-800-552-9963. Citizens in the Richmond area may contact (804) 786-2042. To date 105 calls have been received relative to alleged price gouging and 20 other calls alleging

miscellaneous motor fuels complaints, such as half-pricing discrepancies, failure to deliver correct amount of fuel, and signage issues.

- **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD)**
 - Tasked with matching families and available housing in the communities.
 - Supporting efforts at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)**
 - Supporting Town Pickett with unemployment assistance and employment referrals.
- **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**
 - Supporting efforts at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia Department of Mental Health (VDMH)**
 - Providing crisis counseling to evacuees at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (VDRS)**
 - Link evacuees needing special assistance to appropriate resources at Town Pickett.
- **Virginia Department of General Services (VDGS)**
 - Supporting efforts at Town Pickett.
- **Voluntary Organizations**
 - **Red Cross**
 - American Red Cross has **1,874 open cases** and has assisted **4,072 individuals**. The largest concentrations of evacuees are in Hampton Roads, NOVA, Richmond and Southeastern, Virginia. No shelters have been reported open in Virginia at this time.
 - Richmond Chapter reports 110 medical cases, 20-30 that were more serious. The local Health Department will follow up with the serious cases.
 - **United Methodist Church**
 - Supplementing Town Pickett efforts at Blackstone United Methodist Center.
 - **Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)**
 - Liaison between Town Pickett and their member agencies including faith based and community volunteer agencies.
- **FEMA**
 - State Liaison Officer working out of Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)
 - FEMA has set up a Donations Hotline at **800-440-6728**.
 - 3,038 evacuees have registered after having relocated to Virginia on their own and now list Virginia as their temporary address. These evacuees total 2,579 from Louisiana, 451 from Mississippi, 8 from Alabama. In FEMA Region III, Virginia has the highest number of evacuees. Although applicants are listed in communities throughout the Commonwealth there are over 100 FEMA registered individuals or families in the following localities: Alexandria,

Arlington, Chesapeake, Hampton, Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond City, Virginia Beach.

- **Citizen Corps**
 - Volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts across the state.
 - Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters. These deployments include CERT Teams from Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and 14 MRCs in support of local shelter and target support operations.

LOCAL ACTIONS:

- Identifying resources for possible deployment to impact areas and to Fort Pickett.
- Monitoring fuel supply.
- Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities.
- Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and on site working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operation Center. (EMAC)
- Virginia Beach Department of Human Services opened an evacuee Assistance Center on September 7th.
- Six person Incident Management Team from Fairfax County deployed and on site working from the NASA Complex Mississippi. (EMAC)
- Seven person Incident Management Team from Chesterfield County deployed to the New Orleans fire department. (EMAC)

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Fort Pickett is prepared to receive evacuees sent to Virginia by FEMA once Hurricane Ophelia's threat is past. The sheltering facility is not for evacuees currently in Virginia.
- All state agencies with supporting roles have stations at Fort Pickett. Transportation arrangements for evacuees from Richmond International Airport to Fort Pickett have not been finalized. Evacuees, upon arriving at Fort Pickett will be questioned about short term and long term housing needs.
- Greater Richmond Area Red Cross and the Petersburg Chapter are set up to assist processing evacuees arriving at Fort Pickett.
- Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) is open to answer questions and field concerns from citizens. The VPIC telephone number is **866-880-4288**, hours of operation today – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 65 calls reported for September 12. A total of 651 calls reported since VPIC opened on September 2nd.
- PIO handled 4 phone calls September 12th, 2 on Katrina evacuees and 2 miscellaneous calls. A Joint Information Center (JIC) has been established at Fort Pickett. Updated www.vaemergency.com with the latest information.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
- Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is prepared for tasking by 1st Air Force and FEMA to be activated for operations in the Gulf Coast area.
- Legislative Liaison had 1 inquiry from Delegate Reese with the 67th District reference the Governor's state of emergency request. Local Liaison explained process.
- State Council of Higher Education Virginia (SCHEV) provided a link for displaced students that offers information on colleges and universities throughout the

Commonwealth accepting enrollment -
<http://www.schev.edu/Students/ResponseToKatrina.asp>.

PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- Support establishment and operation of evacuee Reception and Disaster Recovery Center at Fort Pickett.
- Continue to monitor fuel supply. Localities will advise VEOC of difficulties.
- Coordinate state relief efforts.
- Process EMAC requests.
- Track mission assignments to state agencies for response actions.
- Implement external communications plan.
- Prepare for impacts of Hurricane Ophelia.

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